

All,

I'm sure many of you have noticed over the last week that we are experiencing a Haze over Lake Superior and skyline. This is mainly due to current wind patterns pushing the smoke from the Northwest area of Canada (British Columbia), who now have 600 active wildfires (according to latest news), burning throughout their area. The high altitude winds are carrying the smoke east across Canada and south/southeast once these winds reach the great lakes area. Some of this effect can be attributed to the 20 wildfires also burning in California. The Air Quality Index (AQI) for today, August 14, 2018 (pictured below), shows a Moderate health concern with particulate counts between 51 – 100. Although this is in an acceptable range, there may be a moderate health concern for those unusually sensitive to air pollution.

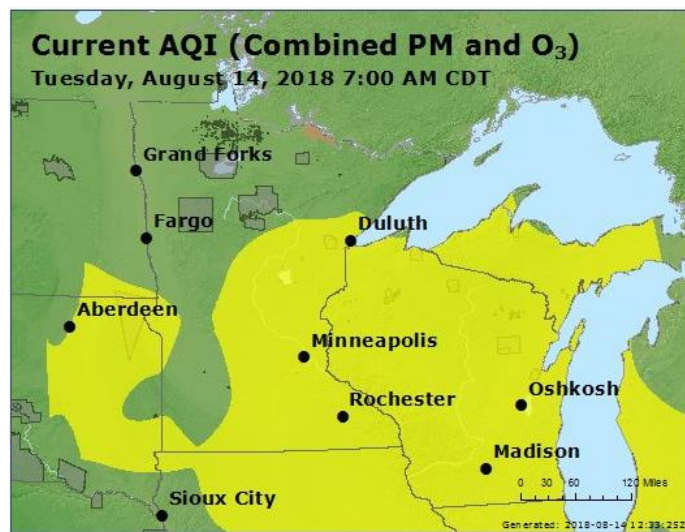


Image 1: Current AQI for Tri-State area

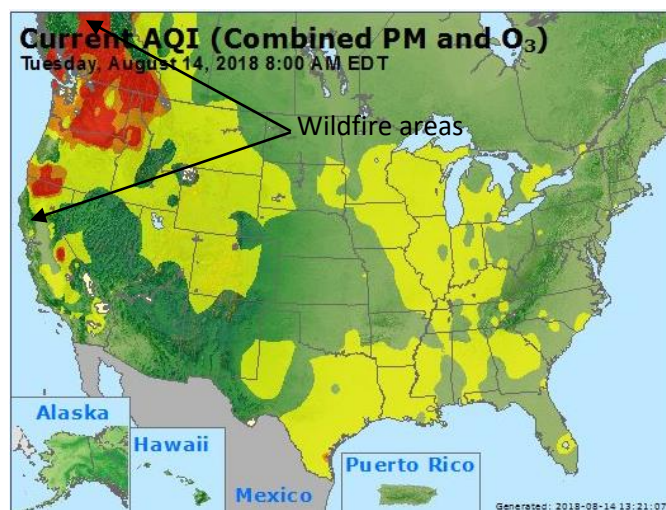


Image 2: Current Canadian/America's AQI map

## AQI colors

EPA has assigned a specific color to each AQI category to make it easier for people to understand quickly whether air pollution is reaching unhealthy levels in their communities. For example, the color orange means that conditions are "unhealthy for sensitive groups," while red means that conditions may be "unhealthy for everyone," and so on.

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0 to 50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151 to 200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.
Hazardous	301 to 500	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.

Image 3: AQI color map

I will continue to monitor this event and will post notifications weekly and/or immediately should there be a change in the AQI for our area. If you would like to monitor the Index for yourself, please type in your search bar [airnow.gov](https://airnow.gov). The Air Now home page will open, in the upper page search tab, select Wisconsin for your state. This will show a color-coded map of our area. Any other questions, feel free to call me at 715-779-3650.

Thanks to all,

Ernie Grooms

Air Quality Manager